

Wisconsin Early Childhood Regional Networks & Community Collaboration Coaches






Wisconsin Context

- ∩ Local control state
- ∩ Governor appoints Secretaries include Departments of Health and Human Services and Workforce Development
- ∩ Elected Superintendent of Public Instruction (no state school board)
- ∩ No formal state early childhood collaboration governance but active collaboration structure
- ∩ Limited number of state early childhood staff

Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners



**Working To Transform
Early Childhood Programs
and Services**

- 
- ∩ A collaboration of state and local, public and private, groups and individuals
 - ∩ Working together since 1993
 - ∩ Recently redesigned to incorporate the components defined by ECCS grant



The New Vision

All children in Wisconsin will receive the services and family supports they need in order to attain their optimal developmental potential during the critical years from birth through age five



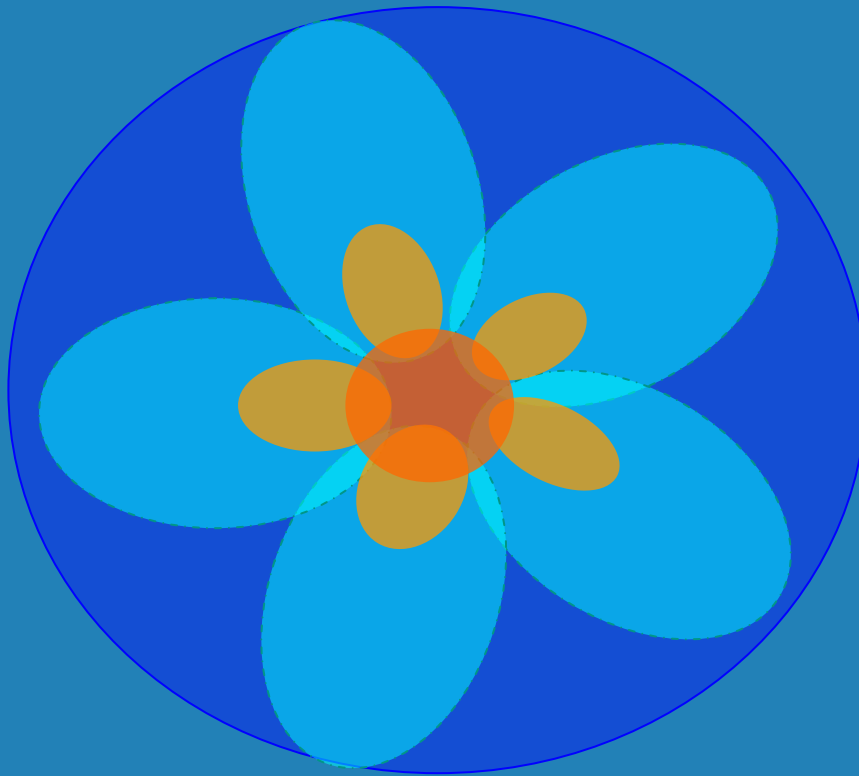
The New Mission

Wisconsin communities, agencies, associations, and state government will work together as a system of high quality comprehensive early childhood services for every child and family who wants to access them.



Operating Structure

- ∞ State level: action team, steering committee, and state wide network
- ∞ Regional level: action teams, team facilitators, and regional networks
- ∞ State support mechanisms: staffing , regional mini-grants, and coaches
- ∞ Communication and networking: state/regional team meetings, networking conferences, website, listservs, and collaborative conferences
- ∞ Work Plan and other descriptive materials



- *State Network
- *State Action Team
- *Regional Network
- *Regional Action Team

State Action Team – State Agencies

Children's Trust Fund Health & Family Services:

- IDEA Part C
- Child Care Licensing
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
- Maternal Child Health, and Public Health
- Children with Special Health Care Needs

Public Instruction:

- Prekindergarten
- IDEA Part B

Workforce Development:

- Child Care Section
- Child Care Information Center
- Wisconsin State Collaboration Office

UW-Extension-Family Living Agents

Waisman Center



Current State Action Team

- o Child Health Alliance of Wisconsin
- o Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- o Children's Service Society
- o Community Action Program
- o Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- o Parents Plus of Wisconsin
- o The Registry
- o WI Child Care Improvement Project
- o WI Council on Children and Families
- o WI Early Childhood Association
- o WI Education Association Council
- o WI Head Start Association
- o WI Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association



What We Have Been Doing

- ∩ **State and Regional Action Planning**
- ∩ **Networking and Information Gathering**
- ∩ **Building Consensus**
- ∩ **Creating an Infrastructure**
- ∩ **Leadership Development**
- ∩ **Community Development**
- ∩ **Service Delivery and Finance Models**
- ∩ **Professional Development**
- ∩ **Collaborative Implementation**



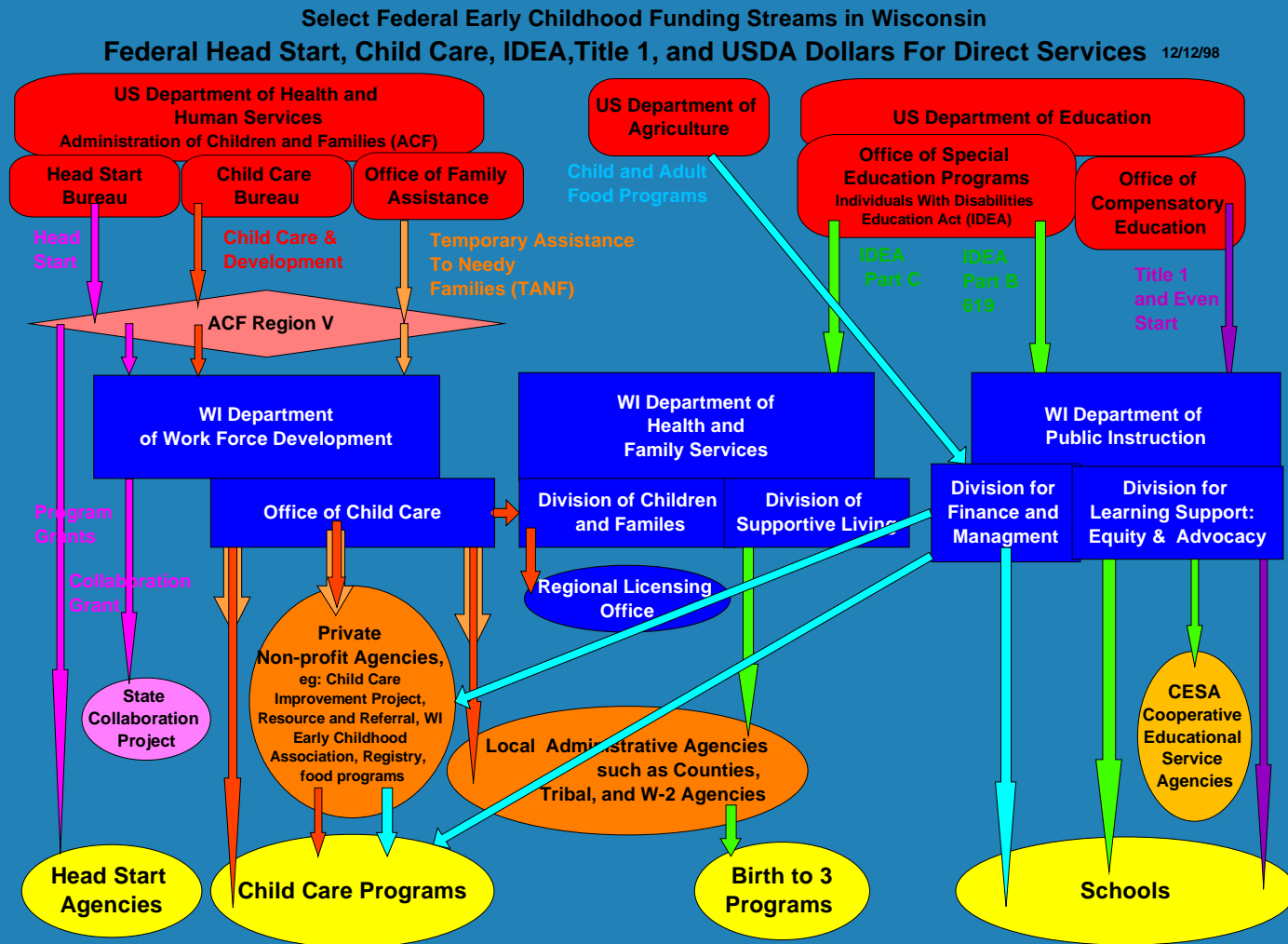
Our Goals & Objectives

- ∩ Public awareness and buy-in
- ∩ Access to quality services
- ∩ Professional development
- ∩ Infrastructure development

Wisconsin Early Childhood Regional Networks



Opportunities to Maximize Funding





Opportunities to Partner

- o Child Care & preschool
- o Head Start
- o School 4/5 kindergartens
- o School special education
- o Title 1
- o Birth to 3 programs
- o Other disability services
- o Even Start
- o Family resource centers
- o Parent education and family support
- o Health, social services, and nutrition



Opportunities to Improve Services

- ∩ **Fragmented service delivery.**
- ∩ **Duplication of services.**
- ∩ **Gaps in services.**
- ∩ **Need to be categorized and labeled.**
- ∩ **Children shuttled between programs.**
- ∩ **Difficult to get what is needed, at affordable costs.**
- ∩ **Quality services are not always provided.**



TO CREATE A NEW SYSTEM THAT WOULD

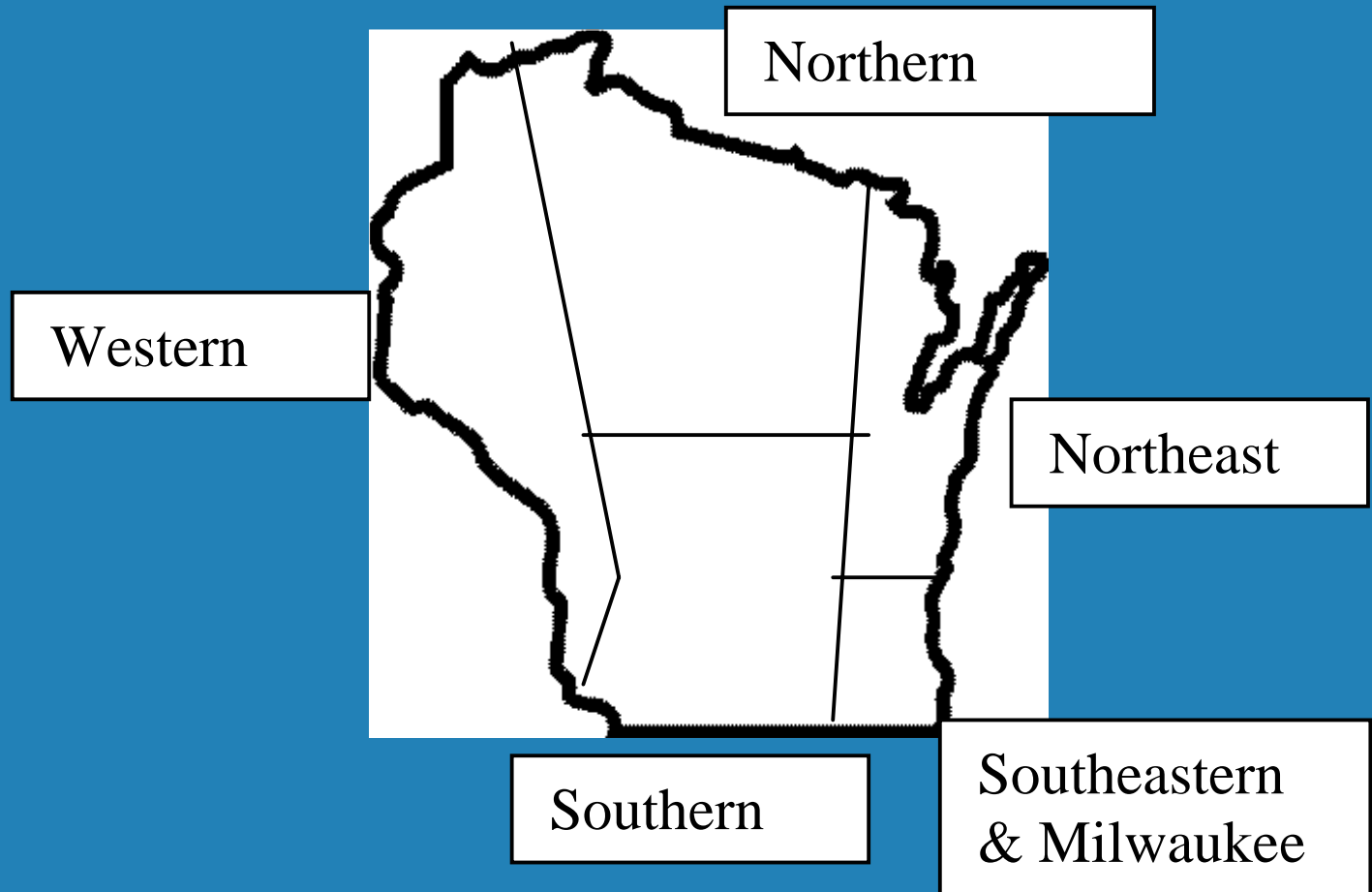
- ∩ Reach children and families early.
- ∩ Serve children without being sorted by eligibility, disability, and/or income.
- ∩ Provide access to a sufficient range of developmental services for all our children.
- ∩ Assure that quality services are available when and where families need them.
- ∩ Provide quality, safe & stimulating environments.
- ∩ Provide a quality and skilled workforce.
- ∩ Involve seniors and citizens of all ages.



TO CREATE A NEW SYSTEM THAT WOULD

- **Reflect and respond to the diversity of children and their families.**
- **Recognize parents as the first and foremost teacher of their children.**
- **Support parents as partners in the planning and delivery of services for their children**
- **Support parents and children with strong public policy. policy.**
- **Ensure access and options to all families regardless of their ability to pay.**
- **Support employment practices that provide flexible hours, parental leave, and other pro-family policies.**

The Early Childhood Networking Regions



Regional Networks

- ∩ Regional Liaison Teams
- ∩ Regional Stakeholders
- ∩ Collaboration Coaches
- ∩ Mini-grants





Regional Action Teams

- ⌚ 1 IDEA Part B Coordinator
- ⌚ Collaboration Coaches
- ⌚ Regional Day Care Licensing Staff
- ⌚ The Regional Public Health Director/Nurse Consultants
- ⌚ 1 Resource and Referral Representative
- ⌚ 1 IDEA Part C Representative
- ⌚ 1 Head Start Director
- ⌚ 1 Children's Trust Fund Family Resource Center
- ⌚ Children with Special Health Care Needs Regional Centers
- ⌚ Local Early Childhood Councils
- ⌚ Important Others



WHY CREATE THESE NETWORKS?

- ∩ Provide a mechanism to share information
- ∩ Provide access to resources and conferences
- ∩ Provide a network to learn about other community approaches
- ∩ Engage people in a shared vision & philosophy for blending care and early education
- ∩ Empower communities to transform the systems



What are the Regions Doing?

CREATE PARTNERSHIP GROUPS

- ∩ Identify partners
- ∩ Identify other groups or networks
- ∩ Hold meetings in “neutral locations”
- ∩ Establish communication patterns for active and interested individuals
- ∩ Identify Activities and Action Steps



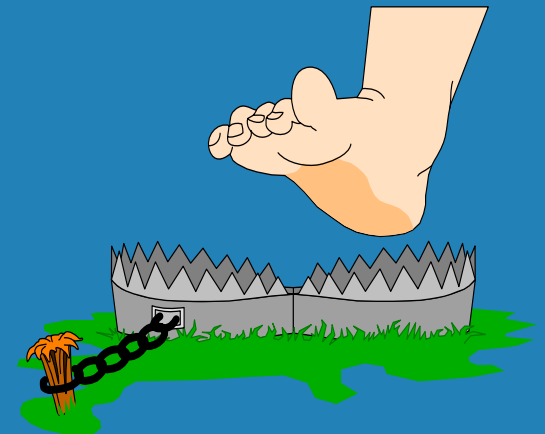
FIND COMMONALTIES AND VISION

- ∩ Find common histories, issues, & values
- ∩ Identify the assets in your community
- ∩ Build a shared vision
- ∩ Develop common philosophies



RECOGNIZE & OVERCOME BARRIERS

- ∩ Historical baggage
- ∩ Turf battles
- ∩ Reluctance to embrace system change
- ∩ Resistance to share power
- ∩ Misunderstandings of intentions
- ∩ Terminology and jargon
- ∩ Conflicting rules and policies
- ∩ Conflicts about use of resources, funding, personnel, & facilities,





Community Approaches

Create new approaches to identify children with special needs

- informed referral networks
- child development days/health fairs

Community Approaches

Options for disability services

- Services in the home
- Birth to 3 and special education personnel deliver services in regulated child care and Early Head Start /Head Start
- Programs in the same buildings with team teaching



Community Approaches

Wrap Around Programs create full day - full year services

- ∞ Child care and Head Start services combined combined for full day services,
- ∞ Child care, Head Start, and school programs combined for full day and full year programs programs



Community Approaches

Community Approaches to Four Year Olds

- ∩ 4 K in school with before/after programs
- ∩ 4 K teachers in child care centers
- ∩ District contracts with child care for 4 K
- ∩ Head Start and schools unify their programs
- ∩ Parent supports when child stays home



Community Approaches

Partnerships to Support Families

- ∩ Aligning Family Resource Centers and Child Care Resource and Referral
- ∩ Creating family friendly environments
- ∩ Creating family resource centers
- ∩ Creating parenting programs
- ∩ Meeting literacy and employment programs
- ∩ Supporting health and nutrition



Community Approaches

Create New Approaches to Help Families Access Resources and Services

- ∩ Directories
- ∩ Expanding approaches to resource and referral
- ∩ Web based access to information



Community Approaches

Bringing Business on Board

- ∞ Improving the community: employee volunteer programs, adopt a center, advocacy.
- ∞ Creating policies that allow employees to be involved with their child: flex time, family leave, child care subsidies.
- ∞ Supporting parent employees through worksite programs: onsite child care or referral services, parenting support and resource programs, literacy programs.

Wisconsin Early Childhood Community Collaboration Coaches





Original Coaches Funding

Pew Charitable Trusts:

- Trust for Early Education
- Preknow

As project funding ended, various other funding sources were “braided” to continue the project



Current Coaches Braided Funding

WI Department of Public Instruction:

- **IDEA**
- **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

WI Department of Workforce Development:

- **WI Head Start Collaboration Project**
- **Child Care Block Grant**

WI Department of Health & Human Services:

- **ECCS grant**



Community Collaboration Coaches

- 2 Coaches with state wide focus working with prekindergarten and WI Model Early Learning Standards
- 6 Coaches work directly with communities and regional networks
- Employed as LTE position through the Department of Public Instruction or purchase of service awards to coaches primary employer

Collaboration Coaches - Purpose

- o Network, share information, and promote collaboration
- o Ensure teams include desired representation
- o Coordinate state-level training efforts
- o Assist implementation of 4 year-old-kindergarten and community approaches.
- o Support expansion of preschool options for young children with disabilities
- o Assist in implementation of Early Learning Standards
- o Increase awareness of poverty issues and access to services for children who are homeless
- o Promote medical home, screening, and health



Lessons Learned

- ∩ **Building on what exists**
- ∩ **Flexible application**
- ∩ **Relationships are key**
- ∩ **Change is not linear**
- ∩ **Honor regional differences**
- ∩ **Bring and keep stakeholders to the table**
- ∩ **System building takes time**
- ∩ **Need for implementation and advocacy**



For more information

www.collaboratingpartners.com

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